

COUNTYWIDE RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
JUNE 3, 2013
MEETING NOTES

Present: James Krzyminski, Paul Lofgren, Ron MacNab, David Magill, Mark Pharaoh, Chris Richardson, George Schlapo, Sean Thomas Smith, Mary Bradford [Parks], Christine Brett [Parks], Morton Davis [Commission on Aging], Ursula Hermann [MCPS], Susan Hoffmann [Rec], John Nissel [Parks], and Robin Riley [Rec].

Absent: Rose Alvarez, Erik Johnson, Michael Waters, Felecia Wilson, James Zepp, Gabe Albornoz [Rec], Steve Beach [CUPF], Jeff Bourne [Rec], Tony DeVaul [Park Police], Kamran Rasul [Commission on Disabilities].

Guests: Brooke Farquhar [Parks], Officers Meixsell and Petrarca [Park Police], and Clare Runkles [Parks]

Chair Report – Chris Richardson

- Chair Richardson welcomed everyone and introduced guests.
- Meeting Agenda and May 6, 2013 Meeting Notes were unanimously approved.

Rec Update – Robin Riley

- June 18 – Montgomery County Recreation camps start
- Financial Assistance applications began this morning and 575 were received. This year, the Department's process has changed and the assistance will run from July 1 through December 31. Assistance will then switch back to the calendar year.
- The department is about to change software to ActiveNet, a cloud-based hosted solution. Joining us in the change is Community Use of Public Facilities and Parks. It will require only one sign-on to access all three departments, thus making it easier for our customers. They will be spending three days of training in June and report back to the Montgomery County Council in July.
- Montgomery County Pools opened May 25. It was cold, so there was not the usual overcrowding that is often the case, so the process went well.
- June 8 will see the Be Active Montgomery! kickoff at the Montgomery Soccerplex. Thanks to our partners, including Parks, MCPS, the United Way, the Maryland Soccer Foundation, and the Montgomery Tennisplex.

Parks Update – Mary Bradford

- The Maryland Board of Public Works provided \$2.95 million of Program Open Space money to the Germantown Town Center Park for a combined open space and recreation amenity.
- June 6 – The Planning Board will decide on the Josiah Henson Park and the new Park fee schedule. The meeting is at 7pm at Park and Planning Headquarters, 8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring.

Enterprise Fund – Christine Brett

- During Memorial weekend, they did cost comparisons. The Splash Park took a hit, but everything else did well.

Park & Trail Planning – Brooke Farquhar

- The criteria for park and trail planning is to go where the higher population numbers are
- They will take another look at our parks and trails to locate where population density is. The good model is to be close to home, near the most people.
- A new trail system will come out of the study that included a good cross-section of well represented groups.
- FAQs were distributed.
- Public meetings will be held on June 24 at the Shady Grove Training Center, and on June 25 in the Park & Planning Auditorium. Parks will share information with staff who will forward it on to the Countywide Recreation Advisory Board. Mary Bradford distributed Parks Foundation membership brochures.

Local Board Reports

- Eastern County, Mark Pharaoh – wrote letter of support for the Four Corners Park plan.
- Mid County, Paul Lofgren – wrote letter of support for the Four Corners Park plan.
- Upper County – Clare Runkles [Parks] reported that the Area Board is low in membership. They are taking on the following issues: grass volleyball courts, COMSAT property's future, athletic fields. June 12 – a public meeting will be held on ADA requirements in the EOB auditorium. The opening of the Plum Gar Community Recreation Center will be on July 20 at 11am.

Ex Officio Reports

- Community Use of Public Facilities, Steve Beach – absent
- Commission on Aging, Morton Davis – the sequester will cost seniors \$100 more/month on rent and there are concerns for the future of Meals on Wheels. Montgomery County Police are looking at the misuse of handicapped tags, which can result in a \$250 fine and charges of using something that doesn't belong to them. Working on diversity in communications.
- MCPS – Ursula Hermann – starting the budget process. Her department of student services is exploring how to better support social and emotional learning and dealing with bullying. Schools should be a safe place to go. The Maryland Department of Education is concerned with the disproportionate numbers of special education, African American and Latino students receiving out of school suspensions and will be looking at that issue.
- M-NCPPC Police, Chief Tony DeVaul – entering their busy season. Actively trying to hire seven new hires. Their motto is “quality not quantity.” Wants to get back to full strength. Holding midnight basketball.

Old/New Business

- Sean Thomas Smith presented the Countywide Recreation Advisory Board Slate: Chris Richardson for Chair and David Magill for Vice Chair.
- Election of Officers -- The slate was unanimously re-elected.
- Jim Krzyminski raised a concern about the state of the Board. There are members going off and it is not being replenished the way it needs to be to remain healthy. A discussion ensued,

including the current status of the CERB recommendations. Staff will be in touch with the County Executive's B/C/C staff to be sure that vacancies are advertised promptly.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.